

REMARKS

Claims 14-18 have been canceled. Claims 9-13 are active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to (meth)acrylic acid copolymers for use in water treatment, scale inhibition in petroleum production and corrosion inhibition.

Claim Objection

The objection to Claims 9 and 14 is believed obviated by the amendment the Examiner suggests the insertion into Claim 9 of the phrase to the effect that a sulfonated polymer is formed and by the cancellation of Claim 14. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 14-18 stand rejected based on 35 USC 102(b) or 35 USC 103 as anticipated by or rendered obvious over Fong et al, U. S. Patent 4,604,431. These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

The rejection of Claims 14-18 over the Fong et al reference is obviated by the cancellation of the claims from the case. Active Claims 9-13 do not stand rejected over prior art. Withdrawal of the stated grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 10/578,616
Reply to the Office Action of January 3, 2008

It is believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "F D Vastine", written in black ink.

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